IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of acquiring a remote node ~~of a plurality of~~ ~~remote nodes~~ that is not yet acquired by a hub in a satellite communication network, said method comprising steps of:

sending a first acquisition command from [[a]] the hub to the remote node that is not yet acquired to acquire the remote node to be added to the network, said first acquisition command

instructing the remote node to send an acquisition response, and

including a first frequency;

sending a first acquisition response based on the first acquisition command from the remote node to the hub using the first frequency; and

sending a second acquisition command from the hub before receiving the first acquisition response at the hub.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the second acquisition command identifies ~~one of~~ the remote [[and]] node or another remote node that is not yet acquired by the hub for acquisition and includes one of the first frequency and a second frequency.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising steps of:

detecting a symbol offset in the first response at the hub; and

sending a symbol offset correction factor from the hub to the ~~plurality of remotes~~ remote node, said correction factor used by the remote node in a subsequent transmission from the remote node to the hub to correct the symbol offset detected in the detecting step.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of:

sending at least a third acquisition command from the hub ~~to the plurality of remotes~~

before receiving the first response at the hub.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising sending

the second acquisition command from the hub within a latency time of sending the first

acquisition command from the hub,

wherein the latency time is ~~about~~ twice a time elapsed between sending a message

from the hub and receiving the message at the remote node.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising steps of:

selecting a next acquisition remote node according to at least one of a round robin

algorithm, a least recently used algorithm, and a priority algorithm; and

selecting a next frequency based on an offset frequency of a previous acquisition

command,

wherein the second acquisition command identifies the next acquisition remote node

for acquisition and includes the next frequency.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the first frequency

includes a frequency offset that informs the remote node to transmit a response based on a

predetermined nominal remote transmit frequency and the frequency offset.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A method of acquiring a remote node that is ~~one of a plurality of remotes~~ not yet acquired by a hub in a synchronous satellite communication network, said method comprising steps of:

transmitting a sequence of downlink messages from [[a]] the hub to the remote node that is not yet acquired with a common time interval between the start of each downlink message, said common time interval being less than ~~about~~ twice a time elapsed between sending ~~a message~~ one of the downlink messages from the hub and receiving the ~~message~~ one of the downlink messages at the remote node, wherein

a first downlink message in the sequence includes a first acquisition command to acquire the remote node to be added to the network and cause [[for]] the remote node to transmit [[an]] a first acquisition response, and

a second downlink message immediately following the first downlink message in the sequence of downlink messages includes a second acquisition command for the remote node to transmit [[an]] a second acquisition response; and

receiving [[a]] the first acquisition response to the first downlink message at the hub after sending the second downlink message from the hub.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 8, further comprising steps of:

allocating time for a sequence of uplink frames from the remote node to the hub with the common time interval between the start of each uplink frame; and

allocating time for at least one data communication time slot and at least one acquisition time slot within each uplink frame,

wherein each downlink message includes a burst time plan instructing the remote node to transmit a data burst within the at least one data communication slot of a subsequent

uplink frame and instructing ~~at least one of the plurality of remotes~~ the remote node to

transmit an acquisition response within the at least one acquisition slot.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 9, wherein each burst time plan

includes station keeping parameters for at least two ~~of the remotes~~ remote nodes that are not

yet acquired and the burst time plan instructs at least one of the at least two ~~remotes~~ remote

nodes to transmit a data burst or an acquisition response according to the station keeping

parameters.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of claim 10, wherein the station keeping parameters

include at least one of a frequency, a symbol offset, and a power level.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A hub apparatus configured to acquire a remote

node ~~of a plurality of remote nodes~~ that is not yet acquired by the hub in a satellite

communication network, said hub apparatus comprising:

an acquisition unit configured to send a first acquisition command to the remote node

that is not yet acquired to acquire the remote node to be added to the network, said first

acquisition command configured to instruct the remote node to send an acquisition response,

and include an indication of a first frequency; and

a receiving unit configured to receive a first acquisition response based on the first

acquisition command from the remote node using the first frequency, wherein

said acquisition unit is further configured to send a second acquisition command

before the receiving unit receives the first acquisition response.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The hub apparatus of claim 12, wherein the second

acquisition command identifies one of the remote [[and]] node or another remote node that is

not yet acquired for acquisition and includes one of the first frequency and a second

frequency.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The hub apparatus of claim 12, further comprising:

a detecting unit configured to detect a symbol offset in the first response; and

an offset sending unit configured to sent send a symbol offset correction factor to the

plurality of remotes remote node, said correction factor used by the remote node in a

subsequent transmission from the remote node to correct the detected symbol offset.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The hub apparatus of claim 12, wherein the

acquisition unit is further configured to send at least a third acquisition command to the

plurality of remotes before the receiving unit receives the first acquisition response.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The hub apparatus of claim 12, wherein

the acquisition unit is further configured to send the second acquisition command

within a latency time of sending the first acquisition command, and

the latency time is about twice a time elapsed between sending a message and

receiving the message at the remote node.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The hub apparatus of claim 12, further comprising:

a next remote selecting unit configured to select a next acquisition remote node

according to at least one of a round robin algorithm, a least recently used algorithm, and a

priority algorithm; and

a next frequency selecting unit configured to select a next frequency based on an

offset frequency of a previous acquisition command,

wherein the second acquisition command identifies the next acquisition remote node

for acquisition and includes the next frequency.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The hub apparatus of claim 12, wherein the

indication of the first frequency includes a frequency offset that informs the remote node to

transmit a response based on a predetermined nominal remote transmit frequency and the

frequency offset.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A hub apparatus configured to acquire a remote

node that is one of a plurality of remotes not yet acquired by the hub in a synchronous

communication network, said hub apparatus comprising:

a transmitting unit configured to transmit a sequence of downlink messages to the

remote node that is not yet acquired with a common time interval between the start of each

downlink message, said common time interval being less than about twice a time elapsed

between transmitting a message one of the downlink messages from the transmitting unit and

receiving the message one of the downlink messages at the remote node,

a first downlink message in the sequence includes a first acquisition command [[for]]

to acquire the remote node to be added to the network and cause the remote node to transmit

[[an]] a first acquisition response, and

a second downlink message immediately following the first downlink message in the

sequence of downlink messages includes a second acquisition command for the remote node

to transmit [[an]] a second acquisition response; and

a receiving unit configured to receive [[a]] the first acquisition response to the first

downlink message after the transmitting unit sends the second downlink message.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The hub apparatus of claim 19, wherein the

receiving unit is further configured to allocate time for a sequence of uplink frames from the

remote node with the common time interval between the start of each uplink frame and

allocate time for at least one data communication time slot and at least one acquisition time

slot within each uplink frame,

wherein each downlink message includes a burst time plan instructing the remote

node to transmit a data burst within the at least one data communication slot of a subsequent

uplink frame and instructing at least one of the remotes the remote node to transmit an

acquisition response within the at least one acquisition slot.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The hub apparatus of claim 20, wherein each burst

time plan includes station keeping parameters for at least two of the remotes remote nodes

that are not already acquired and the burst time plan instructs at least one of the at least two

remotes remote nodes to transmit a data burst or an acquisition response according to the

station keeping parameters.

Claim 22 (Original): The hub apparatus of claim 21, wherein the station keeping

parameters include at least one of a frequency, a symbol offset, and a power level.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A remote apparatus that is not yet acquired by a hub

in a satellite communication network, said remote apparatus comprising:

a receiving unit configured to receive a first acquisition command from [[a]] the hub

to acquire the remote apparatus to be added to the network, said first acquisition command

including an instruction to send a first acquisition response to the hub using a first frequency;

a response sending unit configured to send the first acquisition response to the hub

based on the first acquisition command using the first frequency,

wherein the first acquisition response is received at the hub after the hub sends a

second acquisition command.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The remote apparatus of claim 23, wherein the

second acquisition command identifies one of the remote apparatus [[and]] or another remote

apparatus that is not yet acquired for acquisition and includes one of the first frequency and a

second frequency.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): The remote apparatus of claim 23, wherein the hub

is configured to detect a symbol offset in the first response and send a symbol offset

correction factor to the remote apparatus,

said remote apparatus further comprising a correction unit configured to use the

symbol offset correction factor in a subsequent transmission to the hub to correct the symbol

offset detected by the hub.

Claim 26 (Original): The remote apparatus of claim 25, wherein the receiving unit is

further configured to receive a frequency offset in the first acquisition command, and the

response sending unit is further configured to send the first acquisition response based on the

received frequency offset and a predetermined nominal remote transmit frequency.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): A remote apparatus <u>that is not yet acquired by a hub</u> in a synchronous satellite communication network, said remote apparatus comprising:

a receiving unit configured to receive a sequence of downlink messages from [[a]] <u>the</u> hub with a common time interval between the start of each downlink message, said common time interval being less than ~~about~~ twice a time elapsed between sending a message from the hub and receiving the message at the receiving unit;

a response sending unit configured to send a first acquisition response to the hub based on a first acquisition command <u>from the hub to acquire the remote apparatus to be added to the network, said first acquisition command</u> included in a first downlink message in the sequence and send a second acquisition response to the hub based on a second acquisition command included in a second downlink message in the sequence,

wherein the first acquisition response is received at the hub after the hub sends the second downlink message ~~from the hub~~.

Claim 28 (Original): The remote apparatus of claim 27, wherein the response sending unit is further configured to allocate time for a sequence of uplink frames to the hub with the common time interval between the start of each uplink frame and allocate time for at least one acquisition time slot within a subsequent uplink frame and send an acquisition response to the hub within the at least one acquisition slot based on a burst time plan in the first downlink message that identifies the at least one acquisition time slot.

Claim 29 (Original): The remote apparatus of claim 28, wherein the response sending unit is further configured to allocate time for at least one data communication time slot within each uplink frame and send a data burst within the at least one data communication slot of a

subsequent uplink frame based on the burst time plan in the first downlink message that

identifies the at least one data communication slot.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): The remote apparatus of claim 29, wherein the burst

time plan includes station keeping parameters for the remote apparatus and another remote

apparatus that is not yet acquired in the communication network and the response sending

unit is further configured to send the data burst or the acquisition response based on the

station keeping parameters.

Claim 31 (Original): The remote apparatus of claim 30, wherein the station keeping

parameters include at least one of a frequency, a symbol offset, and a power level.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): A non-transitory computer program product readable

medium having computer program instructions which when executed by a computer cause

the computer to perform the following steps:

sending a first acquisition command from a hub to a remote node that is not yet

acquired by the hub, said first acquisition command sent to acquire the remote node to be

added to the network,

instructing the remote node to send an acquisition response, and

including a first frequency;

sending a first acquisition response based on the first acquisition command from the

remote node to the hub using the first frequency; and

sending a second acquisition command from the hub before receiving the first

acquisition response at the hub.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): The computer ~~program product~~ <u>readable medium</u> of claim 32, wherein the second acquisition command identifies ~~one of~~ the remote [[and]] <u>node or</u> another remote <u>that is not yet acquired</u> for acquisition and includes one of the first frequency and a second frequency.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): The computer ~~program product~~ <u>readable medium</u> of claim 32, further storing instructions causing the computer to perform steps of:

detecting a symbol offset in the first response at the hub; and

sending a symbol offset correction factor from the hub to the remote <u>node,</u> said correction factor used by the remote <u>node</u> in a subsequent transmission from the remote <u>node</u> to the hub to correct the detected symbol offset.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): The computer ~~program product~~ <u>readable medium</u> of claim 32, further storing instructions causing the computer to perform a step of:

sending at least a third acquisition command from the hub to the remote <u>node</u> before receiving the first response at the hub.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): The computer ~~program product~~ <u>readable medium</u> of claim 32, further storing instructions causing the computer to perform a step of:

sending the second acquisition command from the hub within a latency time of sending the first acquisition command from the hub,

wherein the latency time is ~~about~~ twice a time elapsed between sending a message from the hub and receiving the message at the remote <u>node.</u>

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): The computer ~~program product~~ <u>readable medium</u> of

claim 32, further storing instructions causing the computer to perform steps of:

selecting a next acquisition remote <u>node</u> according to at least one of a round robin

algorithm, a least recently used algorithm, and a priority algorithm; and

selecting a next frequency based on an offset frequency of a previous acquisition

command,

wherein the second acquisition command identifies the next acquisition remote <u>node</u>

for acquisition and includes the next frequency.

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): The computer ~~program product~~ <u>readable medium</u> of

claim 32, wherein the first frequency includes a frequency offset that informs the remote

<u>node</u> to transmit a response based on a predetermined nominal remote transmit frequency and

the frequency offset.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): A <u>non-transitory</u> computer ~~program product~~ <u>readable</u>

<u>medium</u> having computer program instructions which when executed by a computer cause

the computer to perform the following steps of acquiring a remote <u>node</u> that is ~~one of a~~

~~plurality of remotes~~ <u>not yet acquired by a hub</u> in a synchronous satellite communication

network:

transmitting a sequence of downlink messages from [[a]] <u>the</u> hub to the remote <u>node</u>

<u>that is not yet acquired</u> with a common time interval between the start of each downlink

message, said common time interval being less than ~~about~~ twice a time elapsed between

sending ~~a message~~ <u>one of the downlink messages</u> from the hub and receiving the ~~message~~

<u>one of the downlink messages</u> at the remote <u>node,</u>

a first downlink message in the sequence includes a first acquisition command [[for]]

to acquire the remote node to be added to the network and causes the remote node to transmit

[[an]] a first acquisition response, and

a second downlink message immediately following the first downlink message in the

sequence of downlink messages includes a second acquisition command for the remote node

to transmit [[an]] a second acquisition response; and

receiving [[a]] the first acquisition response to the first downlink message at the hub

after sending the second downlink message from the hub.

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): The computer program product readable medium of

claim 39, further storing instructions causing the computer to perform steps of:

allocating time for a sequence of uplink frames from the remote node to the hub with

the common time interval between the start of each uplink frame; and

allocating time for at least one data communication time slot and at least one

acquisition time slot within each uplink frame,

wherein each downlink message includes a burst time plan instructing the remote

node to transmit a data burst within the at least one data communication slot of a subsequent

uplink frame and instructing at least one of the remotes the remote node to transmit an

acquisition response within the at least one acquisition slot.

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): The computer program product readable medium of

claim 40, wherein each burst time plan includes station keeping parameters for at least two of

the remotes remote nodes that are not yet acquired and the burst time plan instructs at least

one of the at least two remotes remote nodes to transmit a data burst or an acquisition

response according to the station keeping parameters.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): The computer ~~program product~~ readable medium of claim 41, wherein the station keeping parameters include at least one of a frequency, a symbol offset, and a power level.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): A communication system comprising:

~~a remote node; and~~

a hub configured to send a first acquisition command to [[the]] a remote node that is not yet acquired by the hub, said first acquisition command sent to acquire the remote node to be added to the communication system,

instructing the remote node to send an acquisition response, and

including a first frequency,

said remote node configured to send a first acquisition response based on the first acquisition command to the hub using the first frequency, and

said hub further configured to send a second acquisition command before receiving the first acquisition response.

Claim 44 (Currently Amended): The system of claim 43, wherein the second acquisition command identifies ~~one of~~ the remote node [[and]] or another remote node that is not yet acquired for acquisition and includes one of the first frequency and a second frequency.

Claim 45 (Original): The system of claim 43, wherein the hub is further configured to detect a symbol offset in the first response and send a symbol offset correction factor to the

remote node, and the remote node is further configured to send a subsequent transmission to

the hub using said correction factor to correct the detected symbol offset.

Claim 46 (Original): The system of claim 43, wherein the hub is further configured to

send at least a third acquisition command to the remote node before receiving the first

response.

Claim 47 (Currently Amended): The system of claim 43, wherein the hub is further

configured to send the second acquisition command within a latency time of sending the first

acquisition command,

wherein the latency time is ~~about~~ twice a time elapsed between sending a message

from the hub and receiving the message at the remote node.

Claim 48 (Currently Amended): The system of claim 43, wherein the hub is further

configured to select a next acquisition remote <u>node</u> according to at least one of a round robin

algorithm, a least recently used algorithm, and a priority algorithm and select a next

frequency based on an offset frequency of a previous acquisition command,

wherein the second acquisition command identifies the next acquisition remote<u> node</u>

for acquisition and includes the next frequency.

Claim 49 (Original): The system of claim 43, wherein the first frequency includes a

frequency offset that informs the remote node to transmit a response based on a

predetermined nominal remote transmit frequency and the frequency offset.

Claim 50 (Currently Amended): A synchronous satellite communication system comprising:

~~a remote; and~~

a hub configured to transmit a sequence of downlink messages to [[the]] a remote node that is not yet acquired by the hub with a common time interval between the start of each downlink message, said common time interval being less than ~~about~~ twice a time elapsed between sending ~~a message~~ one of the messages from the hub and receiving the ~~message~~ one of the messages at the remote node,

a first downlink message in the sequence including a first acquisition command [[for]] to acquire the remote node to be added to the communication system and cause the remote node to transmit [[an]] a first acquisition response, and

a second downlink message immediately following the first downlink message in the sequence of downlink messages including a second acquisition command for the remote node to transmit [[an]] a second acquisition response,

wherein [[a]] the first acquisition response to the first downlink message is received at the hub after sending the second downlink message from the hub.

Claim 51 (Currently Amended): The system of claim 50, wherein the hub is further configured to allocate time for a sequence of uplink frames from the remote node to the hub with the common time interval between the start of each uplink frame and allocate time for at least one data communication time slot and at least one acquisition time slot within each uplink frame,

wherein each downlink message includes a burst time plan instructing the remote node to transmit a data burst within the at least one data communication slot of a subsequent

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uplink frame and instructing ~~at least one of the remotes~~ remote node to transmit an

acquisition response within the at least one acquisition slot.

Claim 52 (Currently Amended): The system of claim 51, wherein each burst time

plan includes station keeping parameters for at least two ~~remotes~~ remote nodes and the burst

time plan instructs at least one of the at least two ~~remotes~~ remote nodes to transmit a data

burst or an acquisition response according to the station keeping parameters.

Claim 53 (Original): The system of claim 52, wherein the station keeping parameters

include at least one of a frequency, a symbol offset, and a power level.